(b) whether none of the imported packs of chocolates carry the names and addresses of the manufacturers and its manufacturing dates; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Even though no specific complaints about import of stale chocolates are available in the records, imports into India are subject to compliance of the provisions of all laws applicable to similar products made in the country. Thus, import of food products is subject to, *inter-alia*, all the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA), 1954. The imported consignments of food products not meeting PFA standards would be appropriately dealt with by the authorities through measures including, but not limited to, denial of entry at the port of disembarkment and/or reshipment. Further, the Government have issued a Notification restricting import of food products having less than 60% of its valid shelf life at the time of importation. Under rule 32 of the PFA rules, 1955 every package of food including imported food shall carry a label indicating the name and complete address of the manufacturer or importer or vendor or packer and the month and the year in which the commodity is manufactured or packed, in addition to other labelling requirements.

New markets for processed cashewnuts

2442. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of average price obtained for one kilo of cashewnuts during 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and the 1st quarter of 2001; and

(b) whether Government have made any efforts to find new markets for processed cashewnuts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The average export price (Rs./ kilo) obtained for Indian cashewnuts since 1998-99 is as given below:—

1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002(1st quarter)
211.49	265.13	230.04	209.51

(b) The Cashew Export Promotion Council has proposals for undertaking promotion of cashew kernels in new markets like China, East Europe, Spain, Israel and CIS countries.

Formation of Cashew Board

2443. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will take steps to form a Cashew Board to protect cashew cultivation, to diversify the products with value additon; and

(b) if so, how much time it will take to constitute the Cashew Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Custom entry points on Indo-Pak Border

2444. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set-up custom entry points along the border and opening up of more land routes to enhance Indo-Pak Trade; and

(b) if so, the action proposed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Reduction of export loan rates

2445. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to reduce the export loan rates in view of new exim policy;

(b) if so, the details of discussion being taken place among concerned Ministries in this direction; and